



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Sardella Training Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	T1N, R15E, Portion of Sections 22 and 27, MDBM, near the town of Tuolumne	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Adam Frese, Unit Forester		
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Project Description The Sardella Training burn will be conducted on private property near the community of Tuolumne. The objective of the project is to provide training ground for the annual Intermediate Firing Methods class, and to control the spread of medusahead grass, a noxious weed. The project area consists of annual grasses and scattered oaks. Annual grasses, including medusahead grass, are planned for consumption. Burn units will range from 1/10th to one acre in size. The actual area proposed for burning is approximately 60 acres in size; however, some additional control lines may be constructed in the 80 acre total project area. Control lines will consist of existing roads and trails, hand line, and dozer line. Burning will be conducted over one or two days in May or early June. The project area was designed to avoid Rough and Ready Creek, a Class I watercourse. Class III watercourses will be crossed by hand line at right angles. The area was surveyed by CAL FIRE foresters and a CAL FIRE archaeologist, and no cultural sites were observed. A thorough biological scoping was conducted, and the project is not likely to have any adverse impacts to wildlife. A query of the CNDDDB did not reveal the presence of any sensitive species within the project area. No burning will be conducted within 25 feet of elderberry bushes.

EXEMPTION STATUS


- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class *15304- Minor Alterations to Land*
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project consists of burning annual grass, including medusahead, a noxious weed. Training burn projects are exempt from burn permits in Tuolumne County; however, the Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District will be contacted prior to burning.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

for 
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date: *4/13/15*
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
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